



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

3211 Providence Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-8104

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Biological Sciences
(907) 786-4770
Fax: (907) 786-4607

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MEMO

TO: Placer Moose Project Personnel

FROM: Don Spalinger

SUBJECT: Digestion Kinetics Project Schedule

Just to clarify the digestion kinetics work (Nylon Bag digestions) with Diana at Palmer this fall. I will designate 2 Herbivore students to comprise this team. We will be collecting moose foods from Placer on the weekend of Oct. 6-8, and these will be returned to the lab and freeze-dried during the week of the 9th. I am scheduling a day-long field trip to Falls Creek on Oct. 14, so we should have the forages (*Salix alaxensis*, *S. sitchensis*, *S. barklayi*, *Populus trichocarpa*, and perhaps *Alnus crispa*) dried, ground and ready for nylon bag trials starting the weekend of Oct. 20-22. I surmise we will partition the stems into 3 size classes for each forage (*S. sitchensis* and *A. crispa* may be only 2 size classes). Hence, it will require 5 nylon bag trials to complete the analyses (120 samples/bags total, 3 bags per time period, 8 time periods per trial).

We will drive out to Palmer on the morning of the 20th, and start the trials by about 9 AM. We will work in Palmer, finishing the last bag removals of the day at about 9 PM that evening. We could help construct pens that day if this is desirable. The next morning, we will again meet at the moose pens at about 8:00 AM, and remove bags at 9 AM. If desirable, we could work on pen construction that day if Bill is up for it. I will meet up at the moose pens on Sunday the 22 to remove bags in the morning, and possibly on the 23rd, unless Bill is amenable to pulling bags (the 48 hr, and last bags) on that morning.

We will repeat this schedule on the weekend of Oct. 27-29, and Nov. 3-5. To complete the trials, we will also need to run nylon bag trials on Mon-Thurs on the following dates: Oct. 23-26, Oct. 30 – Nov. 2. I would also like to run nylon bags on our digestion trial materials from the winter of 2006, which would mean an additional nylon bag trial sometime this fall. This would include at least 3 forages, and hence could be done in one trial. We might be able to do these on Friday-Mon, Oct. 13-16, although I'll be taking the class to Falls Creek on Saturday, so will not be around for the Saturday collection.

Bill, this will require your help on these, since I can't be out on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and if I'm not working out there all day long, I'd prefer not to have to drive out every day, unless I can get reimbursed for travel (which I do have funds for in Tom's co-op grant to us – just never used them!). Also, I don't want the students to have to pay their



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transportation out to Palmer every day for a month, either. Anyway, if this sounds too onerous to you, let me know and I'll think of some way to trim them down. I can start getting travel reimbursements for the trips out if Tom agrees it's a reasonable use of funds from the project.

I'd also like to get the digestions done on our forages collected from Nelchina Basin this summer (about 6 of them = 2 trials), but don't know how I can schedule these in over the next several weeks. Perhaps we should just wait on these till next summer? If I can find a good tech, perhaps we can get him/her to work on these over the next several weeks, and before we take the moose out to Placer?

Don